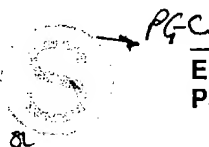




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Application No. 00 202 394.3 - 2307	Ref. 1108334-0386-EP	Date 08.12.2003
Applicant Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Corporation		

Communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC

The examination of the above-identified application has revealed that it does not meet the requirements of the European Patent Convention for the reasons enclosed herewith. If the deficiencies indicated are not rectified the application may be refused pursuant to Article 97(1) EPC.

You are invited to file your observations and insofar as the deficiencies are such as to be rectifiable, to correct the indicated deficiencies within a period

of 4 months

from the notification of this communication, this period being computed in accordance with Rules 78(2) and 83(2) and (4) EPC.

One set of amendments to the description, claims and drawings is to be filed within the said period on separate sheets (Rule 36(1) EPC).

Failure to comply with this invitation in due time will result in the application being deemed to be withdrawn (Article 96(3) EPC).



GOLOMBEK G
Primary Examiner
for the Examining Division

Enclosure(s): 3 page/s reasons (Form 2906)



Bescheid/Protokoll (Anlage)		Communication/Minutes (Annex)		Notification/Procès-verbal (Annexe)
Datum Date Date	08.12.2003	Blatt Sheet Feuille	1	Anmelde-Nr.: Application No.: 00 202 394.3 Demande n°:

The examination is being carried out on the **following application documents**:

Text for the Contracting States:

AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LU MC NL PT SE LI

Description, pages:

2,7,15-19,22-31	as originally filed			
1,3-6,8-14,20,21	as received on	29.08.2002	with letter of	27.08.2002

Claims, No.:

1-20	as received on	19.05.2003	with letter of	13.05.2003
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Drawings, sheets:

1/4-4/4	as received on	08.09.2000	with letter of	06.09.2000
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- 1 The primary examiner withdraws his objections concerning Article 123(2) EPC.
- 2 Taking into account applicant's argumentation set forth in his letter dated 13.05.2003 D2 = US-A-4 530 276 (see page 1 of applicant's letter dated 27.08.2002). D2 shows in figure 2 a toaster having a heated cooking surface (platen 42) and a conveyor belt for moving food items (46, 68), whereby the conveyor belt comprises a multiplicity of ribs projecting from their surfaces (see figure 2) having surface characteristics to impart sufficient lateral force to move the food along the cooking surface.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the apparatus (toaster) known from D2 in that the conveyor belt comprises a flexible composite having a coated surface and a reinforcement material.

However, these features have already been employed for the same purpose (design of a conveyor belt used in a hot environment) in a similar apparatus, see document D4 = US-A-4 899 872, column 2, lines 42 - 50 and figure 1. It would be obvious to the person skilled in the art, namely when the same result is to be achieved (flexible belt), to apply these features with corresponding effect to an apparatus according to document D2, thereby arriving at an apparatus according to claim 1.